

personal friend and valued member of my home town. Corona, California has been blessed by dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work.

Alan was five years old and attending kindergarten in Titusville, a small town in western Pennsylvania, when he first met a pretty young girl named Susan. For 58 years, Alan and Susan were best friends. For almost 39 years, they were husband and wife. Over the years, they have enjoyed a multitude of blessings, most importantly their son, Josh, and his wife, Jill, who have blessed Alan and Susan with two beautiful grandchildren. While Alan died long before we would have wished, Alan had some precious time to spend with his grandchildren. During those last months, Matthew and Garret witnessed the character of their "Poppy" that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. They learned that Alan was a man who loved to laugh but was not afraid to cry; that he would stand strong to defend the values that were important to him, but would melt in the face of another's sadness. The size of his heart belied his stature, and his generosity touched so many lives.

Since 1982, the Wakefields have owned ASJ Industrial Hose, whose name is an acronym for Alan, Susan and Josh. Alan would often say, "Hose is my life." It was not, of course. His family was his life, along with the many friendships he formed over the years. He was also passionate about golf, was a gourmet cook, and an avid gardener who referred to plants by their Latin names. While Susan has been active in just about every organization in Corona with three or more members, Alan for the most part remained in the background; he was not "a joiner." But a few years ago, he relented and joined the Corona Rotary Club, and was one of its most popular and active members.

Near the end of his life, visitors would find Alan to be more interested in what they were doing than talking about his health. When friends would mention they were considering a trip or a home improvement project, Alan would say, "Do it. Do it now." He was speaking from a perspective that the rest of us could only imagine, and some of us sensed that he was suggesting something more than that. Don't put off those trips and projects, but more than that, don't put off telling someone you care, righting a wrong and keep focused on your life's priorities.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is my honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of my friend Alan Wakefield. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a service organization that has done as much for America's veterans as any other organization or group in our Nation's history, The American Legion.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed a resolution rightly honoring this organization, proclaiming September 16, "The American Legion Day."

The American Legion was founded in 1919 and has proven a formidable organization in the support of veterans of our Armed Forces. I am a proud member of American Legion Post 161 in Redmond, Washington, and appreciate their steadfast and ongoing support of veterans and their families. At a national level, the Legion has been active in supporting veterans through work such as the crafting of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and across the country the Legion is involved and committed in their communities. "Legionnaires" are known for and exemplify the spirit of service and this spirit continues to drive their actions long after they take off their uniforms. They create benevolence funds, host barbeques and involve themselves in civic projects. Legionnaires believe in service. They are the voice of our veterans and advocates for our men and women in uniform. I am grateful for the organization's 90 years of service and sacrifice to our country.

General George Washington said in a letter to the Provincial Congress, "When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen," the American Legion exemplifies this attitude. In this body, we must continue supporting The American Legion and I urge Legionnaires to continue to reach out to lawmakers for our support.

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND TRACEY L. BROWN'S 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Tracey L. Brown, of Ruth Fellowship Ministries in Plainfield, New Jersey. She was commissioned and installed as Pastor and Founder on April 17, 1999 and is being honored for her 10th Pastoral Anniversary.

Over many years, Rev. Brown has served her community well as an active leader. She is an International Pastor with the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, serves as the Third Vice Moderator for the Middlesex Central Baptist Association, and as a Commissioner for the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority in Plainfield, New Jersey. She is also a former member of the Plainfield Board of Education.

Rev. Brown often preaches the value of our communities and how important it is that we work together, as a team, to make the City of Plainfield a better place. I think her team mentality comes from the lessons she learned on the basketball floor, where she was recently inducted into Montclair State University's Athletic Hall of Fame for Women's Basketball.

Rev. Brown has been a fixture in the Plainfield community as a role model for young women and a spiritual leader for the city. She continues to work every day with tremendous enthusiasm and energy.

Rev. Brown will be celebrating her 10th Pastoral Anniversary as the pastor and found-

er of the Ruth Fellowship ministries. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Brown's great achievement and I wish her the best.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY "PETE" STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of creating education opportunity for millions of students. The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221) is the single largest investment in college affordability in our nation's history. In addition, the legislation will provide much-needed resources for states to develop and improve early childhood education programs.

The ideal behind this bill is simple: stop providing taxpayer subsidies to banks to act as the middlemen in student lending, save billions, and reinvest most of those savings into our beleaguered education system.

By moving all student loans into the Department of Education's Direct Lending Program, this legislation saves \$87 billion that would otherwise be siphoned off by private lenders. These savings allow for historic investments in the Pell Grant and Perkins Loan programs for low- and moderate-income students. Over 16,000 students in my Congressional District rely on Pell Grants each year. These students will see the maximum grant rise to \$5,500 in 2010 and automatically increase each year thereafter to keep up with inflation. By 2019, the maximum grant is expected to be \$6,900. Similarly, the Perkins Loan program will receive a \$6 billion boost, providing assistance for thousands of new students.

The bill also invests in another vital resource: Our community colleges. H.R. 3221 invests \$10 billion in community colleges to modernize facilities, implement reforms, and work with local employers to create curricula to ensure that students are graduating able to fulfill local workforce needs.

Finally, the legislation before us will help to make sure that every child enters school ready to learn and achieve by creating the "Early Learning Challenge Fund." This fund will provide resources to states to expand and improve their "Birth to Five" early childhood education programs by improving licensing standards, developing high quality curricula aimed at cognitive, emotional, and social development, and building a highly qualified workforce.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act is an example of reform that this Congress can achieve when we are willing to put aside the narrow concerns of special interests and support common sense policies that will provide greater educational opportunity. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.